



Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Community Support and Services Committee, Report

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.20 pm): I rise to speak on the Community Support and Services Committee's report on the 2021-22 budget estimates process. The committee made one recommendation: that the proposed expenditure be agreed to. I acknowledge the member for Mansfield, who is currently on leave. She is the chair of the committee and did a fantastic job chairing the committee at the estimates hearing. I am acting in her role at the moment. I also thank all other members of the committee: the member for Cook, the member for Nicklin, the member for Scenic Rim, the member for Burnett and the member for Maiwar. I thank ministers Leeanne Enoch, Craig Crawford and Leanne Linard for their hard work and valuable contributions. In this House we are very fortunate to be supported by fantastic committee secretariats. I thank the secretariat of this particular committee and all of the departmental officers who give up so much of their time during estimates and who do a great job supporting us.

The Community Support and Services Committee has responsibility for the portfolio areas of communities, housing, digital economy and the arts; seniors and disability services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships; and children, youth justice and multicultural affairs. Boosting Queensland's housing supply and increasing housing and homelessness support to Queenslanders has been a major feature of this budget. As part of our Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, a massive \$1.9 billion has been budgeted over four years, which includes \$1.8 billion to increase our social housing supply and \$94.9 million to support the housing and homelessness service system. Across Queensland it is exciting to see this budget funding translated into tangible housing outcomes. For instance, in my electorate I have seen firsthand how Aunty Jill Davidson's Place, a new social housing complex in the Ipswich CBD that was completed at the beginning of the year, has changed people's lives for the better. I thank Minister Leeanne Enoch for coming to Ipswich to officially launch Aunty Jill Davidson's Place a few months ago.

This budget also builds on our government's goal of supporting the arts and cultural services in Queensland, including \$61.7 million over four years to support the preservation of the heritage listed Queensland Cultural Centre. There is \$21 million over four years to support cultural tourism outcomes and regional arts delivery through the World Science Festival, and investment in the Regional Arts Services Network. The arts and cultural network in Queensland is a thriving and adaptable sector. However, over the past 18 months COVID-19 has had a severe impact on the livelihood of artists,

performers and live music venues. That is why this government has set aside \$7 million in this budget to extend the Live Music Venue Support program. I know that program has helped a number of live music venues doing it tough, including, for instance, Banshees Bar & Artspace in my electorate of Ipswich. Recently, Banshees received \$43,000 through the Live Music Venue Support program. That has been a lifeline for them and enabled them to stay open. Banshees services many people and it is great that we can still have live music happening here in Queensland.

We are also committing \$2.7 billion to support the vital work being done in the service areas of seniors, disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. That includes establishing a \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund, one of the most significant actions to promote reconciliation in our state's history. An additional \$20.87 million in funding is to be provided to deliver key initiatives including remote Indigenous land and infrastructure programs, support for the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation scholarship program, programs protecting seniors against elder abuse and disability service initiatives including support for advocacy and peak bodies.

This is a budget that delivers on building safe and thriving communities in Queensland by providing a total of \$472.6 million in increased funding over five years to continue supporting the service areas of child and family services, youth justice services and multicultural affairs. To respond to the increasing demand and growing complexity of cases arising from the child protection system, \$282.6 million has been budgeted over two years for out-of-home care services and \$76.6 million has been budgeted over four years for 154 additional frontline child safety workers. In addition, we have committed \$95.7 million over four years to youth justice services, including \$77.3 million to help target serious repeat youth offenders through the youth justice strategy. We have listened to the community when it comes to repeat youth offenders and this budget placed a heavy focus on helping young people to stop reoffending.

In closing I again thank all of the committee members, the ministers involved, the directors-general and CEOs who do a fantastic job and who all gave valuable contributions to the estimates process. I commend this report to the House.